

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-referenced subcommittee held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2016 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present were: Councilors Joseph Washington, Leon Rivers, Joseph Merritt and Joel Neuwirth

Also present were: Philip K. Schenck Jr., Town Manager, Chief Paul Hammick, Chief William Riley, Chief Robert Farmer, Pat Braun and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council.

Absent were: Councilors Derrick Seldon

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

POLICE

The police department is currently on budget with no unexpected expenditures.

Personnel Updates

The department has a total of 61 employees of which, there are 49 budgeted sworn officers. However, the department currently has 46 sworn police officers. There are no anticipated retirement.

Officer Kyle Sandberg resigned from the department to seek other employment at another agency. He was a four year veteran with the Bloomfield Police Department.

The department hired Mr. Tyrone Ward as a Part-time Dispatcher. He will begin his employment on November 19, 2016.

Recruitment

Recruit Jalisa Cuevas and Tiffany Allison are doing very well in the Police Academy and have adjusted well thus far.

Officer Alicia Aldridge was released from her duties as a Police Officer with the Bloomfield Police Department last month.

Mr. Matthew Lacaprucia did not pass the required testing of the State of Connecticut and the Bloomfield Police Department. He was released from his duties from the department as well.

The department will continue to do background investigations for non-certified candidates. They are also actively recruiting for Police Cadets and non-anticipated promotions. It was noted that there are two available seats in the Police Academy beginning January 2017 for the Bloomfield Police Department.

Crime

Chief Hammick reported that crime is up 14% for the month of October and 15% year to date, due to domestic violence incidents and auto thefts for the month of September. He also noted that adult arrests have decrease by 20%.

There were two citizen complaints in the month of October. There are no further issues or actions under investigation is pending. There have been nine complaints from year to date.

There one incident of use of force during the month of September. This incident involved a shoplifting suspect at Dollar Tree – Copaco Shopping Center. Chief Hammick commended Chief Farmer for his responsiveness to assist with apprehending this suspect. The complaint was reviewed and in compliance.

Patrol

The department will continue to focus of high traffic accident areas with motor vehicle enforcement and traffic enforcement.

The patrol division have responded to numerous resident complaints in the Pershing Park, involving overnight parking and overall quality of life issues.

Community Services

Chief Hammick attended a Community Conservation regarding Race Relations held at the First Cathedral.

The School Resource Officer will continue to participate in the student advisory council at Bloomfield High School.

Body Cameras

The department ordered the WatchGuard system for officer body cameras. It was noted that the delivery of the system will be delayed due to a backlog on orders from other police departments nationwide. This system will also replace the current equipment in the cruisers. Chief Hammick and senior personnel met with the consultant about instituting policy changes derived partially from state standards of best practices.

BVA

Chief Hammick reported that there are currently 22 students enrolled into the fall EMT class. There have been several inquiries regarding a class for the spring, March 2017.

The town wide AED devices have been checked and new child pads distributed and replaced.

Several new members joined BVA in the past two months.

The BVA Fund recently donated new power structure (lift) for one of the ambulances.

The department is also in the process of updating the Town emergency operations plan.

FIRE

Center Fire District

Chief Riley reported that the month of October uneventful. The fire district participated in 3rd Annual Boo Bash event sponsored by Social & Youth Services/Leisure Services.

The department also participated in providing fire prevention education to all schools in the district. Firefighters demonstrated and explained safety gear and precautions to students.

Blue Hills Fire District

Chief Farmer reported the district handled 39 incidents, with over 26.8 hours of manpower.

Some of the major incidents included:

- On October 12, 2016, three cars were engulfed flames in a parking lot on Camelot Drive.
- On October 22, 2016, complaints were reported on Tobey Road regarding issues with loud parties and coding problems. The building department is scheduled to abate the owner of complex.

A mutual aid agreement was signed with the Town of South Windsor Fire Department for assistance with major incidents if needed.

The district was not chosen in the first pick for grant awards. The grant period has opened and the district will apply for another grant on November 18, 2016 for \$310,000-\$320,000 to replace breathing apparatus for firefighters.

In addition, it was mentioned that Mr. Schenck has offered to assist Blue Hills Fire District with any help as a guide in financial management regarding Fire Commissioners administrative duties and budget.

EMS

Mr. Pat Braun report that there was no meeting in October 2016. However, he did provide several stats to the subcommittee:

- 1,059 were received from Jun-August 2016
- 474 – BVA Ambulance
- 28 – AMR Ambulance
- 101 - 2nd Paramedic

The power loader for the 2nd ambulance was installed and completed.

The goal is to supply Ambulance #3 with a power stretcher with estimated cost of \$14,578.08. The BVA Fund approved this amount.

In a recent meeting of the BVA Fund a new President was elected – Mr. Dan Rosenthal, Vice President is Mr. Pat Braun and Mr. Bob Whalen has Treasurer.

Thus far, \$190,000 is need to Fundraise for purchase of the 3rd Ambulance. A Fund Drive out two weeks ago and received a robust start.

Discussion and Possible Action regarding Radio System Orientation and Update

Chief Hammick gave a brief update regarding plans for the department radio system. In the last fiscal year, funds were allocated to hire a consultant to review and evaluate the current system and make recommendations if needed.

The town is in need of an upgrade, however the current system parts are not manufactured any longer and have been discontinued. Chief Hammick and the consultant discussed options such as:

1. Upgrade the existing system with comparable basic equipment, which may not resolve performance issues and not being able to communicate adequately.
2. Upgrade to the new P25 digital tech system with advanced features. The department may consider sharing costs on a regional basis, relative to hardware/software. The department has reviewed the pros and cons with other public safety partners in town, like the Town of Windsor current operation.

Both local fire departments have stated that they have issues with P25 digital technology for ground operation communications.

Discussion and Status Update regarding Police Officer Recruitment Efforts

Mrs. Cindy Coville, Director of Human Resources presented an outline of the hiring process for an entry level Police Officer. (see attached)

It can take approximately 6 months to be considered as an actual candidate for hire. Potential must undergo several tests and examinations for consideration.

Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Amplified Sound Ordinance and Block Party Ordinance changes

This matter was deferred to a later meeting pending draft recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of September 12, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor Neuwirth and voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 7:28 p.m.